(b) the funds disbursed by OIDB to Petroleum Sector till March, 1997;

(c) the name of the Oil Companies/ guarantee institutions which did not draw the funds for which projections were made by them; and

(d) the reasons for non-drawal of funds?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) A sum of Rs. 28,900 crores approximately has been collected as cess on crude oil upto the end of March, 1997.

(b) An amount of Rs. 7607 crores (approx.) has been disbursed by OIDB to the Petroleum Sector till March, 1997 in the form of loans and grants.

(c) and (d) Oil Companies and grantee institutions had drawn funds as per their requirements.

Import of LNG for Power Sector

419. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up any project to import of LNG for power sector by the ONGC, IOC and GAIL;

(b) whether Government have considered the proposal;

(c) if so, whether the terminal for import of LNG is proposed to be set up in Gujarat for giving benefit to the power projects including starved Power Project of Pipavav; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Union Government has approved formation of Joint Venture Company with equity participation upto 50% from GAIL, ONGC, IOC and BPCL for import of LNG and setting up of LNG terminals.

(c) The new Joint Venture Company is examining the various parts in Gujarat for the import of LNG to be utilised mainly for the power sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Extension of Long Distance Trains Upto Gandhidham

420. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a long standing demand for the extension of long distance trains upto Gandhidham;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon alongwith the details of long distance trains proposed to be extended upto Gandhidham?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There have been some demands in this regard.

(b) Extension of trains including of Howrah-Ahmedabad Express, Madras-Ahmedabad Express etc. upto Gandhidham has been examined but not found feasible due to operational and resource constraints.

Authorisation of Travel Agencies for the Ticket Reservations

421. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have appointed a number of travel agencies authorising them to arrange reserved tickets for the public;

(b) if so, on what terms and conditions such agencies are appointed;

(c) whether any monitoring and checking authority has also been appointed to avoid indulgence in malpractices by such agencies;

(d) whether such accredited agencies were permitted to instal own computer terminals and issue tickets with information of journey; and

(e) if so, what are the criteria for accreditation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rail Travellers' Service Agents have been appointed in various cities for purchasing tickets and securing reservation etc. from the Railway Reservation Office on behalf of the passengers by standing in the queue like a normal passenger.

(b) the terms and conditions for apointment of Rail Travellers' Service Agents are given in the Authorisation of Rail Travellers' Service Agents Rules, 1985 notified under Statutory Order No. 881(E) dated 5.12.1985 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 5.12.1985 as amended vide Statutory Order No. 771(E) dated 30.7.1987 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 13.8.1987 and Statutory Order No. 331(E) dated 1.7.1992 as published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II section-3 sub-section(ii) dated 26.5.1993.

The main conditions for appointment of these agents are as under:—

(i) Applicant should be in possession of the latest Income Tax Clearance Certificate;

(ii) Applicant should be having office and premises properly maintained with adequate conveniences and amenities in the city so as to accommodate the visit of sufficient number of customers; and

(iii) Applicant should not be convicted in a criminal case involving moral turpitude.

The fees on payment of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 1,200/-and Rs. 600/- for any additional licence in the same station.

The Security deposit on furnishing of which the licence shall be issued or renewed shall be Rs. 5,000/-in cash and a Bank Guarantee for Rs. 15,000/- in addition. There shall be no accural of interest on the said deposit.

The duration of such licence is of 3 years and it is renewable after that.

(c) The records required to be maintained by the RTSAs in accordance with RTSAs Rules 1985 are inspected by the Competent Authority from time to time and licenses of the RTSAs are suspended/cancelled wherever irregularities are detected.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

रेल दावा न्यायाधिकरणों में रिक्तियां

422. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) रेल दावा न्यायाधिकरणों में सदस्यों एवं अध्यक्षों के कितने पद कब से रिक्त हैं तथा प्रत्येक न्यायाधिकरण में कितने दावे दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से लंबित हैं;

(ख) वर्ष 1992-93 से लेकर 1996-97 तक इन न्यायाधिकरणों में कितने सदस्यों एवं अध्यक्षों की नियुक्तियां की गई तथा कितने नाम कब से विचाराधीन हैं; और

(ग) उक्त न्यायाधिकरणों में मृत्यु एवं दुर्घटना के कारण विकलांगता के दावों की संख्या का न्यायाधिकरण-वार ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) सदस्यों के चार नव सृजित पद 2 तकनीकी और 2 न्यायिक फरवरी '97 से रिक्त पड़े हैं तथा इन्हें भरने के लिए कार्रवाही शुरू की गई है। प्रत्येक पीठ में दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से लंबित दावे संबंधी मामलों की संख्या नीचे दी गई है:—

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